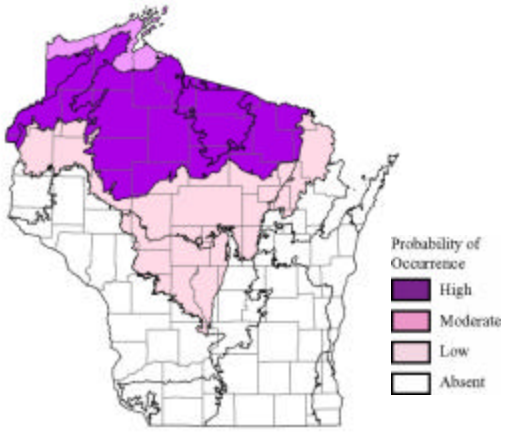
Black-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*)

Species Assessment Scores*

State rarity:	4
State threats:	4
State population trend:	3
Global abundance:	3
Global distribution:	2
Global threats:	3
Global population trend:	3
Mean Risk Score:	3.1
Area of importance:	2

* Please see the Description of Vertebrate Species Summaries (Section 3.1.1) for definitions of criteria and scores.



Ecological Landscape Associations
Please note that this is not a range map. Shading does not imply that the species is present throughout the Landscape, but represents the probability that the species occurs somewhere in the Landscape.

Landscape -community Combinations of Highest Ecological Priority

Ecological Landscape	Community
Central Sand Plains	Northern wet forest
Forest Transition	Northern wet forest
North Central Forest	Boreal forest
North Central Forest	Northern mesic forest
North Central Forest	Northern wet forest
North Central Forest	Northern wet-mesic forest
North Central Forest	Open bog
Northern Highland	Northern dry forest
Northern Highland	Northern dry-mesic forest
Northern Highland	Northern wet forest
Northern Highland	Open bog
Northwest Lowlands	Boreal forest
Northwest Lowlands	Northern wet forest
Northwest Lowlands	Open bog
Northwest Sands	Northern dry forest
Northwest Sands	Northern dry-mesic forest
Northwest Sands	Northern wet forest
Northwest Sands	Open bog
Northwest Sands	Pine barrens
Superior Coastal Plain	Boreal forest
Superior Coastal Plain	Northern wet forest

Threats and Issues

- Fire suppression in northern dry forests.
- Removal of dead and dying trees within northern forests and bogs, which limitsforaging opportunities for Black-backed Woodpeckers.

Priority Conservation Actions

- Planning that allows for a "safe" and acceptable amount of dead and dying trees in fire-prone systems for this and other species and includes a disaster response plan.
- Management should focus on maintenance of natural patterns of forest fire, wood-boring insects, disease, and decay. Management recommendations include, (1) retain all trees with nest cavities; (2) retain snags in harvested areas; (3) retain the relatively older trees and a mix of healthy and diseased trees for nesting; (4) for foraging, retain dead patches of trees in a variety of decay stages, especially insect host trees, and those susceptible to future insect occupancy; (5) retain some tall hard dead trees for woodpecker drumming; and (6) limit insecticide use in forest habitats (Goggans et al. 1989).
- Need planning and standards that incorporate "disturbance-dependent" species into forest management and fire management plans.
- Conduct research regarding Black-backed Woodpecker ecology and interactions with fire and insect infestations, including a comparison of densities and productivity between unburned forests and recent burns. Landscape relationships, including area sensitivity, juxtaposition of habitats, and use of corridors are virtually unknown and need research.